What is claimed is:

1. A computer implemented method, comprising:

exposing, to an application, an interface that comprises a first method;

detecting a first invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the first invocation specifies a first Smart Card-accessing device, a first type of event, and a first function; and

in response to detecting the first invocation of the first method, performing steps comprising:

determining whether the first type of event is a type of event that occurs when a reset command is sent to a Smart Card-accessing device; and

if the first type of event is a type of event that occurs when a reset command is sent to a Smart Card-accessing device, then starting a first mechanism that executes the first function each time that the first Smart Card-accessing device receives a reset command.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a second invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the second invocation specifies the first type of event, a second function, and a second Smart Card-accessing device that is separate from the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the second invocation of the first method, starting a second mechanism that executes the second function each time that the second Smart Card-accessing device receives a reset command.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the second function differs from the first function.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the interface comprises a second method, and further comprising:

detecting an invocation of the second method by the application, wherein the invocation of the second method specifies the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the invocation of the second method, stopping the first mechanism.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a second invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the second invocation specifies a second type of event, a second function, and the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the second invocation of the first method, starting a second mechanism that executes the second function each time that an event of the second type of event occurs relative to the first Smart Card-accessing device, wherein the second mechanism is separate from the first mechanism.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the interface comprises a second method, and further comprising:

detecting an invocation of the second method by the application, wherein the invocation of the second method specifies the first function; and in response to detecting the invocation of the second method, stopping the first mechanism without stopping the second mechanism.

7. A computer implemented method, comprising:

exposing, to an application, an interface that comprises a first method;

detecting a first invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the first invocation specifies a first Smart Card-accessing device, a first type of event, and a first function; and

in response to detecting the first invocation of the first method, performing steps comprising:

indicating, to the application, whether a Smart Card is currently present in the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

starting a first mechanism that executes the first function each time that an event of the first type of event occurs relative to the first Smart Card-accessing device.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

detecting a second invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the second invocation specifies the first type of event, a second function, and a second Smart Card-accessing device that is separate from the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the second invocation of the first method, performing steps comprising:

indicating, to the application, whether a Smart Card is currently present in the second Smart Card-accessing device; and starting a first mechanism that executes the first function each time that an event of the first type of event occurs relative to the second Smart Card-accessing device.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the second function differs from the first function.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the interface comprises a second method, and further comprising:

detecting an invocation of the second method by the application, wherein the invocation of the second method specifies the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the invocation of the second method, stopping the first mechanism.

11. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

detecting a second invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the second invocation specifies a second type of event, a second function, and the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the second invocation of the first method, performing steps comprising:

indicating, to the application, whether a Smart Card is currently present in the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

starting a second mechanism that executes the second function each time that an event of the second type of event occurs relative to the first

Smart Card-accessing device, wherein the second mechanism is separate from the first mechanism.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the interface comprises a second method, and further comprising:

detecting an invocation of the second method by the application, wherein the invocation of the second method specifies the first function; and

in response to detecting the invocation of the second method, stopping the first mechanism without stopping the second mechanism.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein the first type of event is a type of event that occurs when a Smart Card is inserted into a Smart Card-accessing device.

14. The method of claim 7, wherein the first type of event is a type of event that occurs when a Smart Card is removed from a Smart Card-accessing device.

15. A computer implemented method, comprising:

exposing, to an application, an interface that comprises a first method;

detecting a first invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the first invocation specifies a first Smart Card-accessing device, a first type of event, and a first function; and

in response to detecting the first invocation of the first method, performing steps comprising:

determining whether the first type of event is a type of event that occurs when a command, which indicates that a Smart Card-accessing device is to be closed, is sent to a Smart Card-accessing device; and

if the first type of event is a type of event that occurs when a command, which indicates that a Smart Card-accessing device is to be closed, is sent to a Smart Card-accessing device, then starting a first mechanism that executes the first function in response to the first Smart Card-accessing device receiving a command that indicates that a Smart Card-accessing device is to be closed.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

detecting a second invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the second invocation specifies the first type of event, a second function, and a second Smart Card-accessing device that is separate from the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the second invocation of the first method, starting a second mechanism that executes the second function in response to the second Smart Card-accessing device receiving a command that indicates that a Smart Card-accessing device is to be closed.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the second function differs from the first function.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the interface comprises a second method, and further comprising:

detecting an invocation of the second method by the application, wherein the invocation of the second method specifies the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the invocation of the second method, stopping the first mechanism.

19. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

detecting a second invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the second invocation specifies a second type of event, a second function, and the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the second invocation of the first method, starting a second mechanism that executes the second function each time that an event of the second type of event occurs relative to the first Smart Card-accessing device, wherein the second mechanism is separate from the first mechanism.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the interface comprises a second method, and further comprising:

detecting an invocation of the second method by the application, wherein the invocation of the second method specifies the first function; and

in response to detecting the invocation of the second method, stopping the first mechanism without stopping the second mechanism.

21. A computer implemented method, comprising:

exposing, to an application, an interface that comprises a first method;

detecting a first invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the first invocation specifies a first Smart Card-accessing device, a first type of event, and a first function; and

in response to detecting the first invocation of the first method, performing steps comprising:

determining whether the first type of event is a type of event that occurs when loss of communication with a Smart Card-accessing device is detected; and

if the first type of event is a type of event that occurs when loss of communication with a Smart Card-accessing device is detected, then starting a first mechanism that executes the first function in response to loss of communication with the first Smart Card-accessing device being detected.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

detecting a second invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the second invocation specifies the first type of event, a second function, and a second Smart Card-accessing device that is separate from the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the second invocation of the first method, starting a second mechanism that executes the second function in response to loss of communication with the first Smart Card-accessing device being detected.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the second function differs from the first function.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the interface comprises a second method, and further comprising:

detecting an invocation of the second method by the application, wherein the invocation of the second method specifies the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the invocation of the second method, stopping the first mechanism.

25. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

detecting a second invocation of the first method by the application, wherein the second invocation specifies a second type of event, a second function, and the first Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to detecting the second invocation of the first method, starting a second mechanism that executes the second function each time that an event of the second type of event occurs relative to the first Smart Card-accessing device, wherein the second mechanism is separate from the first mechanism.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the interface comprises a second method, and further comprising:

detecting an invocation of the second method by the application, wherein the invocation of the second method specifies the first function; and

in response to detecting the invocation of the second method, stopping the first mechanism without stopping the second mechanism.

27. A computer implemented method, comprising:

exposing, to an application, an interface that comprises a method;

detecting an invocation of the method by the application, wherein the invocation specifies a Smart Card-accessing device;

in response to detecting the invocation of the method, causing a mechanism to begin waiting; and

in response to detecting that a Smart Card is present in the Smart Card-accessing device, causing the mechanism to stop waiting.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the invocation further specifies an amount of time, and further comprising:

in response to detecting the invocation of the method, starting a timer that expires when the amount of time has passed since the invocation; and

in response to detecting that the timer has expired, causing the mechanism to stop waiting.

29. A computer implemented method, comprising:

exposing, to an application, an interface that comprises a method;

detecting an invocation of the method by the application, wherein the invocation specifies a Smart Card-accessing device;

in response to detecting the invocation of the method, ceasing a mechanism to begin waiting; and

in response to detecting that no Smart Card is present in the Smart Card-accessing device, causing the mechanism to stop waiting.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the invocation further specifies an amount of time, and further comprising:

in response to detecting the invocation of the method, starting a timer that expires when the amount of time has passed since the invocation; and

in response to detecting that the timer has expired, causing the mechanism to stop waiting.

31. A computer implemented method, comprising:

exposing, to an application, an interface that comprises a method;

detecting an invocation of the method by the application, wherein the invocation specifies a Smart Card;

in response to detecting the invocation of the method, causing a mechanism to begin waiting; and

in response to detecting that the Smart Card is not present in a Smart Card-accessing device, causing the mechanism to stop waiting.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the invocation further specifies an amount of time, and further comprising:

in response to detecting the invocation of the method, starting a timer that expires when the amount of time has passed since the invocation; and

in response to detecting that the timer has expired, causing the mechanism to stop waiting.

33. A computer implemented method, comprising:

associating one or more Smart Card-accessing devices with a first log-in device;

associating one or more Smart Card-accessing devices with a second log-in device that is separate from the first log-in device;

establishing a first user session through the first log-in device;

in response to establishing the first user session through the first log-in device, associating the first user session with a first Smart Card-accessing device that is associated with the first log-in device;

establishing a second user session through the second log-in device;

associating, with a second Smart Card-accessing device that is separate from the first Smart Card-accessing device, a second user session that is separate from the first user session;

in response to establishing the second user session through the second log-in device, associating the second user session with a second Smart Card-accessing device that is associated with the second log-in device;

receiving, in a particular user session, a request to perform an operation relative to a particular Smart Card-accessing device; and

in response to receiving the request, performing steps comprising:

determining whether the particular user session is associated with the particular Smart Card-accessing device;

if the particular user session is associated with the particular Smart Card-accessing device, then performing the operation relative to the Smart Card-accessing device; and if the particular user session is not associated with the particular Smart Card-accessing device, then preventing the operation relative to the Smart Card-accessing device.